

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BOGOTA 04784 241631Z

72

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 /082 W

----- 057364

R 232121Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8815

INFO AMCONSUL CALI

AMCONSUL MEDELLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 4784

E O 11652 GDS

TAGS PINT CO

SUBJ: THE WEEK IN COLOMBIA

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. THE MOST IMPORTANT EVENTS THIS PAST WEEK WERE THOSE THAT DID NOT TAKE PLACE. THE ABRUPT REMOVAL, A WEEK EARLIER, OF GEN PUYANA (SEE BOGOTA 4537 AND 4538) HAD SPARKED WIDESPREAD SPECULATION ON THE SHORT-TERM FUTURE OF THE LOPEZ PRESIDENCY, INCLUDING PREDICTIONS OF BROAD CHANGES IN THE CABINET AND EVEN, AMONG THE MORE EXTREME, THE POSSIBILITY OF A MIL COUP. AS THE DAYS PASSED HOWEVER, IT BECAME CLEAR THAT PRES LOPEZ WOULD RIDE OUT THE SITUATION. BY WEEK'S END THE ADMIN WAS VERY MUCH IN PLACE, WITH NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGES HAVING TAKEN PLACE. THE COLOMBIAN PUBLIC, WHILE FAR LESS ENTHUSIASTIC THAN PREVIOUSLY ABOUT ITS CHIEF EXECUTIVE, CLEARLY PREFERRED HIS CONTINUANCE TO ANY ABRUPT DEPARTURES FROM THEIR EXISTING INSTITUTIONS OF GOVT. AT WEEK'S END, FINMAN BOTERO ATTEMPTED TO IMPROVE THE ADMIN'S IMAGE BY ANNOUNCING THAT THE NATION WAS SHOWING IMPROVEMENT IN ALL IMPORTANT ECONOMIC SECTORS. THE BOTERO ADDRESS WHILE OPEN TO CRITICISM BY VIRTUE OF A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT OMISSIONS, PROVIDED, IN ANY EVENT A SOUND INDICATION THAT THE GOC HAD RETURNED TO BUSINESS AS USUAL. END SUMMARY

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BOGOTA 04784 241631Z

2. LABMIN AND INDUSTRIALIST DISENGAGE CONFRONTATION. MINLAB MARIA ELENA DE CROVO WHOSE INTEMPERATE REMARKS A WEEK AGO CREATED A POTENTIAL CONFRONTATION WITH THE POWERFUL NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF INDUSTRIALISTS (ANDI), APPEARED TO HAVE COME OUT OF THE "NON-CTTFRONTATION" NONE THE WORSE FOR WEAR. LAST WEEK ADDRESSING BUSINESS REPS IN MEDELLIN DURING A MEETING OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY COUNCIL, SHE REPORTEDLY SAID THAT WHEN ONE SEES THE TREMENDOUS NUMBER OF CHILDREN WITH POOR HEALTH, INADEQUATE NUTRITION AND POOR HOUSING "IT MAKES ONE WANT TO EITHER CRY OR PICK UP A MACHINE GUN AGAINST THE OLIGARCHY. SHE ALSO SAID THAT THERE WERE TWO KINDS OF BUSINESSMEN, "THOSE WHO WILL COOPERATE (WITH THE GOC) TO BRING ABOUT SOCIAL CHANGE, OR THOSE WHO WILL HAVE TO BE CONTROLLED." THESE REMARKS BROUGHT STRONG REACTION FROM ANDI, INCLUDING A DEMAND THAT THE MIN APOLOGIZE. ANDI ALSO SOUGHT AND RECEIVED AN AUDIENCE WITH PRES LOPEZ, IN PART TO DISCUSS THE MIN'S CHARGES.

4. BY MID WEEK THE EXPECTED CONFRONTATION APPEARED TO BECOME MORE SERIOUS WHEN ANDI REPS IN CALI WALKED OUT OF A MEETING WITH THE MIN WHEN THE LATTER FAILED TO SHOW UP ON TIME. STILL WITH THE STAGE SET FOR A DONNYBROOK, BY WEEK'S END ALL PARTIES SEEMED ANXIOUS TO BE MODERATE. ANDI PRES FABIO ECHEVERRY, AFTER MEETING WITH PRES LOPEZ MAY 22 DECLARED THAT "THERE DOES NOT EXIST A PERSONAL CONFRONTATION WITH ANY OF THE MINS OR FUNCTIONARIES OF THE GOC," AND ADDING, "I NEVER HAVE HAD BAD RELATIONS WITH THE MINLAB. THE MIN SIMPLY MADE SOME COMMENTS RECENTLY AND ANDI MADE SOME CORRECTIONS." FOR HER PART MIN DE CROVO SAID THAT SHE WAS NOT FIGHTING WITH ANYBODY. FORMER PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR RODRIGO URIBE ECHAVARRIA EVEN ADDED A BIT OF LEVITY BY STEALING A LINE FROM THE MIN, "WHEN I HEAR A GOVT REP ATTACKING PRIVATE ENTERPRISE I WANT TO CRY AND ASK HER WHY." AND THUS ALL SEEMED TO BE FORGIVEN, AT LEAST FOR THE TIME BEING.

5. ECONOMIC SITUATION TO IMPROVE.

FINMIN BOTERO REPORTED TO THE PEOPLE ON THE ECONOMY, SAYING THAT THE WORST ADJUSTMENTS TO ADVERSE WORLD FACTORS AND THE REFORMS OF LAST YEAR ARE PAST. THINGS WILL BEGIN TO PICK UP, HE SAID, DURING THE SECOND HALF OF THE YEAR, WHEN THE GOVT'S DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, INCLUDING A LARGE SOCIAL CONTENT, CAN BE INITIATED.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BOGOTA 04784 241631Z

EVEN AT PRESENT, HE SAID, THINGS ARE NOT TOO BAD ECONOMICALLY, WITH REAL GROWTH CONTINUING AT A 4-5 PERCENT RATE, INCREASES IN THE COST OF LIVING AND THE MONEY SUPPLY BEING BROUGHT UNDER CONTROL, AND EVEN THE EXTERNAL SECTOR HAS ITS BRIGHT SPOT IN THE CONTINUING STRONG PERFORMANCE OF NON-TRADITIONAL EXPORTS. THE MIN DID NOT MENTION SOME NEGATIVE ASPECTS SUCH AS UNEMPLOYMENT, THE CONSTRUCTION SLUMP, THE PETROLEUM SITUATION, OR CAPITAL FLOWS IN THE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS. NEVERTHELESS HE MAY BE RIGHT

IN PREDICTING AN UPTURN, OR AT LEAST IN NOT FORESEEING A SIGNIF-
ICANT DOWNTURN. VAKY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SITUATION, ECONOMIC REPORTS, PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, PUBLIC ATTITUDES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BOGOTA04784
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750183-0989
From: BOGOTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750520/aaaaarvh.tel
Line Count: 117
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 SEP 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <17 NOV 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THE WEEK IN COLOMBIA
TAGS: PINT, EGEN, CO, (LOPEZ MICHELSEN, ALFONSO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006